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- NEWS RELEASE -

BYSIEWICZ DRAWS PRECINCTS TO HAVE GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS AUDITED

10% OF ALL VOTING PRECINCTS WILL HAVE BALLOTS HAND COUNTED AND
MATCHED AGAINST MACHINE TOTALS TO ENSURE INTEGRITY OF VOTING

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz joined voting rights advocates from across Connecticut at a new conference at the State Capitol on Thursday November 13th to randomly select the voting precincts which will have election results audited following the November 4th presidential election.

As required by Public Act 07-194, An Act Concerning the Integrity and Security of the Voting Process, ten percent of the polling precincts used in the election are subject to an audit. All told, 833 polling precincts were used on November 4th meaning that 84 precincts will have their election results audited.

“November 4th was an historic day for voters in Connecticut,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “As voters came to the polls in droves they must have continued confidence that their votes were recorded accurately and that’s why the independent audits are so vital.”

The audits can begin no sooner than November 19, 2008 and must be completed by November 24, 2008. All offices on the ballot will be audited.

“Auditing election results isn’t just a good idea, it’s absolutely essential in order to guarantee the integrity of our elections,” said Secretary Bysiewicz. “Record numbers of Connecticut residents cast ballots on November 4th, and we don’t just take the machines’ word for it. So we will have every ballot cast in a full 10% of all our precincts hand counted and matched against the machine totals. Connecticut has the toughest elections audit law in the country and I am confident at the end of this year’s audit the numbers will match.”

In total, audits will be conducted in eighty-four precincts:

Precinct Name	Town
Prendergast School Ward 6	Ansonia
Barkhamsted Elementary School	Barkhamsted
Senior Center	Berlin
J.P. Vincent School	Bloomfield
Fields Memorial School	Bozrah
Community House - Voting District 1, Precinct 0	Branford
Indian Neck School - Voting District 5, Precinct 0	Branford
Hallen School 126-3	Bridgeport
Park City Magnet School 126-5	Bridgeport
Luis Munoz Marin School 128-1	Bridgeport
Highland School - Dist. 6-2	Cheshire
Broadview Middle School - Ward 3	Danbury
District 6 Tokeneke School	Darien
Silver Lane School	East Hartford
Momauguin School 2	East Haven
Hays School 5	East Haven
Fairfield Ludlowe High School Dist. 9	Fairfield
Irving Robbins Middle School - Dist 1, Precinct 12	Farmington
Franklin Town Hall	Franklin
Greenwich Town Hall Dist. 2	Greenwich
Riverside School Dist. 5	Greenwich
Spring Glen School	Hamden
Shepherd Glen School	Hamden
Batchelder School District 11	Hartford
Hartford Public Library (Central Library)	Hartford
Town Hall Assembly Room	Harwinton
Killingly Public Library 2 Dist. 1	Killingly
Litchfield Fire House	Litchfield
Northfield Fire House 2	Litchfield
Lyme Fire House	Lyme
Martin School	Manchester
Waddell School	Manchester
Eagleville Fire Department	Mansfield
Elmer Thienes Elementary School	Marlborough
Community Towers Area 1	Meriden
Macdonough School-District 1	Middletown
Moody School Gym-District 5	Middletown
Snow School-Gym-District 7	Middletown
Wesley School-District 9	Middletown

Joseph A Foran High School District 4	Milford
Western School - A	Naugatuck
Gaffney School District 4	New Britain
School Apartments District 5-2	New Britain
Generale Ameglio Society District 7	New Britain
New Canaan High School Gym South Dist. 1	New Canaan
Main Library Ward 1-02	New Haven
Dwight School Ward 2	New Haven
Roberto Clemente School Ward 4	New Haven
Micro Society-Museum Lab School 02 Ward 6	New Haven
Wilbur Cross High School Ward 10	New Haven
Celentano Museum Academy Ward 19	New Haven
Edith Johnson - District 10-94 Ward 22	New Haven
Jerome Harrison Elementary School	North Branford
New Town Hall	North Stonington
Nathan Hale (Naramake School) - Voting District 137D	Norwalk
Norwich Ice Rink	Norwich
Mary L Tracy School	Orange
Our Lady Of Mercy Parish Hall	Plainville
Plymouth Town Hall	Plymouth
Town Hall	Preston
Redding Community Center	Redding
Griswold Middle School	Rocky Hill
Shelton Intermediate School	Shelton
Elizabeth Shelton School	Shelton
Rogers School	Stamford
Stamford High School (Rear)	Stamford
Stillmeadow School	Stamford
Turn Of River School	Stamford
Bunnell High School 122	Stratford
Second Hill Lane 10	Stratford
Franklin School 4 121 23	Stratford
Suffield Middle School	Suffield
Hillcrest School Dist. 1	Trumbull
Town Hall	Voluntown
Silas Bronson Library	Waterbury
Waterville Recreation Center	Waterbury
Willow Plaza Center	Waterbury
Wolcott School 6-1	West Hartford
Ann V. Molloy School Voting District 7	West Haven
Mackrille School Voting District 8	West Haven
Saugatuck Elementary School 136-1	Westport

Wethersfield Ambulance Facility	Wethersfield
Natchaug School	Windham
John F Kennedy School	Windsor

The law requires a hand audit 10% of all polling places in all elections and primaries. (Polling precincts which are already part of a recount are exempt from audits by statute). The provisions in the law, developed in close cooperation with the computer science department at the University of Connecticut, give Connecticut one of the strictest audit statutes in the country. Connecticut is the first state in New England to require a comprehensive audit of election results.

Public Act 07-194 states that local Registrars of Voters, "... shall conduct a manual audit of the votes recorded in not less than ten per cent of the voting districts in the state, district or municipality, whichever is applicable. Such manual audit shall be noticed in advance and be open to public observation." The results of audits will be analyzed by the University of Connecticut and then presented to the Secretary of the State's Office and the State Elections Enforcement Commission, and ultimately made available to the public.

The law contains a detailed description of the audit process:

"The manual audit... shall consist of the manual tabulation of the paper ballots cast and counted by each voting machine subject to such audit. Once complete, the vote totals established pursuant to the manual tabulation shall be compared to the results reported by the voting machine on the day of the election or primary. The results of the manual tabulation shall be reported on a form prescribed by the Secretary of the State which shall include the total number of ballots counted, the total votes received by each candidate in question, the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were properly completed by each voter and the total votes received by each candidate in question on ballots that were not properly completed by each voter. Such report shall be filed with the Secretary of the State who shall immediately forward such report to The University of Connecticut for analysis. The University of Connecticut shall file a written report with the Secretary of the State regarding such analysis that describes any discrepancies identified. After receipt of such report, the Secretary of the State shall file such report with the State Elections Enforcement Commission."